



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

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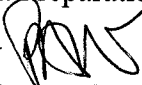
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County Counsel

November 19, 2012

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TO: SACHI A. HAMAI
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: PATRICK A. WU 
Senior Assistant County Counsel

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**
County Claims Board Recommendation
Valentina Lagos v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 451 832

Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached are the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action Plan to be made available to the public.

It is requested that this recommendation, the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action Plan be placed on the Board of Supervisors' agenda.

PAW:rfm

Attachments

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Valentina Lagos v. County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 451 832, in the amount of \$2,950,000 plus assumption of the Medi-Cal lien, if any, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Health Services' budget.

This lawsuit arises from injuries allegedly sustained by a patient from treatment and hospitalization at LAC+USC Medical Center.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Valentina Lagos v. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	BC 451832
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court - Central District
DATE FILED	December 22, 2010
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$2,950,000, plus assumption of the Medi-Cal Lien.
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Shirley K. Watkins, Esq. Michels & Watkins
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Narbeh Bagdasarian Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On April 10, 2010, Valentina Lagos, who was 3-months-old at the time, was brought to the emergency department at LAC+USC Medical Center ("LAC+USC") with signs and symptoms that were suggestive of infection.</p> <p>The LAC+USC staff conducted laboratory tests and began treatment for the patient. Later it was determined that the patient had meningitis which caused her to suffer some neurological injuries.</p>

The patient filed a lawsuit against the County of Los Angeles claiming that the LAC+USC staff delayed her treatment thereby contributing to her injuries

PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE

\$34,596

PAID COSTS, TO DATE

\$44,377

Case Name: Lagos, Valentina



Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of Incident/event:	April 10, 2010
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p>On April 10, 2010, Valentina Lagos, who was 3-months-old at the time, was brought to the emergency department at LAC+USC Medical Center ("LAC+USC") with signs and symptoms that were suggestive of infection.</p> <p>The LAC+USC staff conducted laboratory tests and began treatment for the patient. Later it was determined that the patient had meningitis which caused her to suffer some neurological injuries.</p> <p>The patient filed a lawsuit against the County of Los Angeles claiming that the LAC+USC staff delayed her treatments thereby contributing to her injuries.</p>

1. Briefly describe the root cause(s) of the claim/lawsuit:

Neurological injury resulting from infection.


2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

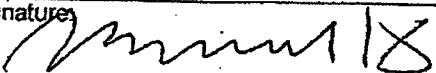
- All appropriate personnel corrective actions have been taken.
- Educational sessions were held discussing the treatment and prevention of complications resulting from meningitis.
- Educational sessions were held discussing documentation in the Emergency Department.
- Educational sessions were held discussing the peritoneal dialysis procedure.
- DHS developed a system-wide guideline for the ordering of peritoneal dialysis solutions.

County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

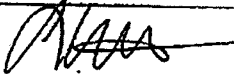
3. State if the corrective actions are applicable to only your department or other County departments:
(If unsure, please contact the Chief Executive Office Risk Management for assistance)

- ☐ Potentially has County-wide implications.
- ☐ Potentially has an implication to other departments (i.e., all human services, all safety departments, or one or more other departments).
- X Does not appear to have County-wide or other department implications.

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)	
Kimberly McKenzie	
Signature:	Date:
	7/3/12

Name: (Department Head)	
Mitchell H. Katz, MD	
Signature:	Date:
	8/21/12

Chief Executive Office Risk Management

Name:	
LEO COSTANTINO	
Signature:	Date:
	7/12/12